

SD6641/S95450

Specification

The Office notes that the pharmaceutical and plastic powders of claim 4 and the mechanical pressing processes of claim 9 are not recited in the specification. Correction is required.

To address the first objection related to claim 4, please replace the second paragraph on page 7 of the Specification, lines 9-24, with the following paragraph, which incorporates the types of powders recited in claim 4. Claim 9 is cancelled.

"In the method of the present invention, a method and algorithm have been developed and incorporated within a user-friendly computer interface (referred to hereinafter as 'UNIPACK') that considerably simplifies and reduces the time required to design a primary geometry, generate a mesh, and execute a finite element computer model simulation of powder compaction for that geometry (Ewsuk et al., Sandia National Laboratories Technical Report, SAND2000-3045, Albuquerque, NM, 2000; incorporated herein by reference). In particular, the UNIPACK interface computer code allows a novice user, with minimal training, to quickly and easily: 1) construct a primary geometry from a subclass of pre-defined axisymmetric geometric shapes; 2) generate a finite element mesh for the primary geometry; 3) set up and run a finite element powder compaction simulation for said primary geometry, and 4) visually review the results of the computer simulation. The present invention has application in the ceramics industry for pressing ceramic green powder compacts, in the powder metallurgy industry for pressing metal powder compacts, for pressing plastic powders, and in the pharmaceuticals industry for pressing pharmaceutical powders into pills."

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